

From: MacDonald, Mike
Sent: Mon, 14 Feb 2022 19:52:08 +0000
To: Poloz, Adriana
Cc: Duheme, Michael
Subject: RE: RCMP Assessment on Convoy
Importance: High

Hi,

NSIA thanks you very much for the quick turn around. Do you think you could answer her question within the next 20 minutes?

I guess my question is “ how do we know “, in particular how do we know that the majority are peaceful? They are determined to harm individuals to achieve their goals - honking and diesel fumes as one example, harassment and threats as another.

When is a protest no longer legal? How is a tent at the war memorial an element of a peaceful protest - moreover how is claiming that the protestors are now responsible for war memorial security peaceful in a rule of law society ?

From: Poloz, Adriana <adriana.poloz@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 2:25 PM
To: MacDonald, Mike <Mike.MacDonald@pco-bcp.gc.ca>
Cc: Duheme, Michael <Michael.Duheme@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>
Subject: RCMP Assessment on Convoy
Importance: High

Mike

As requested, pls let me know if this suits your requirements.

COVID 19 has amplified the grievances held by ideologically motivated groups and individuals and the pandemic has served as an opportunity to promote their propaganda and ideology.

Dynamic factors continue to cause concern and may be exacerbated with police enforcement. The potential for violence by a lone actor or fringe group cannot be discounted as protesters remain in Ottawa.

While it is noted that not all individuals participating in “Freedom Convoy 2022” protests adhere to ideologically motivated violent extremist (IMVE) thinking, the presence of IMVE adherents have been noted in a few instances in relation to these protest events:

- In Ottawa, one truck participating in the convoy was found displaying a THREE PERCENTERS (III%) flag. The Three Percenters were listed as a terrorist entity in Canada in 2021 and have espoused

anti-immigration and anti-Islam views in the past. No other references to the THREE PERCENTERS have been noted at convoy protests in recent days and the THREE PERCENTERS have not had visible presence in Canada since being listed as a terrorist entity.

- A few members of the DIAGOLON (adjacent to the PLAID ARMY) movement have also been seen in Ottawa during the convoy protests. DIAGOLON/PLAID ARMY emerged as a meme-based, satirical movement online in 2021, sharing anti-government and anti-vaccine/mandate views under the guise of humour. In recent days, prominent members of DIAGOLON/PLAID ARMY have espoused increasingly violent rhetoric opposing vaccine mandates. One member was arrested in January over firearms related offences and has since been seen attending convoy events in Ottawa, frequently warning supporters of imminent law enforcement action against the convoy demonstrations, and denouncing police enforcement of such as illegal. DIAGOLON adherents express desires to form a country based on right-leaning Canadian provinces and US states. Their grievances extend beyond COVID-19 restrictions and are centered on countering “politically correct” culture.
- CANADA FIRST, a white nationalist group, has also been observed in Ottawa. One CANADA FIRST adherent is accused of throwing rocks at the Prime Minister during the election campaign. This same individual has been observed in Ottawa during the convoy.

Outside of the organized IMVE groups, the convoy movement appears to create an ideologically charged environment in which individuals who may hold frustrations towards public health restrictions may feel this is their one chance to express their frustrations. The movement, given its widespread reach, is attracting individuals who may hold IMVE beliefs and may feel emboldened in their views amid the movement’s popularity. While the majority of convoy protesters are peaceful and denounce violence, the possibility of a lone actor attack, inspired by ideologically motivated beliefs, cannot be discounted. RCMP K Division (Alberta) recently seized a number of firearms from convoy vehicles at the Coutts AB blockade.

The blockades at international borders are also likely attempts at forming national solidarity with convoy protesters in Ottawa, with the knowledge that affecting critical transportation and economic infrastructure may pressure governments to repeal public health restrictions. Narratives questioning the loyalty and authority of police have also been circulating surrounding this movement in recent days.

We continue to track and analyze these developments and will provide updates as products are finalized.

Adriana

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C: Irrelevant

